



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

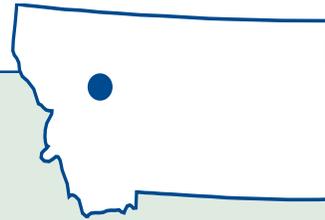
Lewis and Clark County, MT

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Lewis and Clark County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Lewis and Clark County (population 55,716) includes the Helena Valley, which is the primary population center and economic hub of Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties. Mining and manufacturing operations in Helena and East Helena have significantly decreased over the past several years, leaving behind contaminated soil and groundwater. Since 2000, key employers have closed or relocated, resulting in an estimated loss of more than 800 jobs and \$25 million in annual earnings in the region. The per capita income in the county is 86.2 percent of the national average, and 13 percent of residents live below the poverty level. Growth in the



Assessment Grant

New
2006

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected Lewis and Clark County for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to inventory and prioritize brownfield sites, conduct at least six Phase I and at least two Phase II environmental site assessments, develop cleanup plans, and perform community outreach activities. The target area is the Helena Valley, which includes the Cities of Helena and East Helena.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 8 Brownfields Team
303-312-6757

http://www.epa.gov/region08/land_waste/bfhome/bfhome.html

Grant Recipient: Lewis and Clark County, MT
406-447-8383

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

region is largely occurring outside Helena and East Helena, placing increasing demands on the county to provide services to unincorporated areas. Brownfields include mine and mill sites, former dumps, sawmills, and at least 17 known methamphetamine labs in the county. When brownfields are revitalized, they will be used as sites for affordable housing and mixed-use development. Brownfields redevelopment will create jobs, increase the tax base, remove blight and sources of contamination, limit sprawl, and improve the quality of life for residents.